IN THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An expandable spacer, comprising:

an axial tube having a surface, a proximal end, a distal end and a length,

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two ~~axially displaced~~ extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said surface and define a geometry of an expanded spacer; and

a locking element adapted to axially lock said spacer when axially compressed, to prevent axial expansion thereof,

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis.

2. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said at least two axially displaced extensions comprises at least three extensions, which three extensions extend in at least three different directions from said tube.

3. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said at least two axially displaced extensions comprises at least four extensions, which four extensions extend in at least four different directions from said tube.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said slits are straight.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said slits are curved.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said slits are defined by a cut in said tube.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said slits are defined by a section removed from said tube.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said slits are substantially parallel to said tube axis.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said slits are not parallel to said tube axis.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said slits are arranged in pairs of same length.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said slits are arranged in pairs of different lengths.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein slits associated with one extension axially overlap slits associated with a second, axially displaced, extension.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said proximal end of said tube defines a proximal end-cap, which end-cap extends outside of a volume defined by the geometry of said extended extensions.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said distal end of said tube defines a distal end-cap, which end-cap extends outside of a volume defined by the geometry of said extended extensions.

15. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 13, wherein at least one of said extensions is flush with said proximal end of said tube.

16. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 13, wherein at least one of said extensions is flush with said distal end of said tube.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, comprising at least one spur axially extending from said spacer, to engage tissue adjacent said spacer.

18. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 17, wherein said at least one spur comprises at least two spurs axially extending from said spacer.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, comprising an inner bolt.

20. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 19, wherein said inner bolt has a smooth exterior.

21. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 19, wherein said inner bolt has a threaded exterior.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 19, wherein said bolt has a base, which base has an external diameter greater than an inner diameter of said tube, such that said base restricts axial motion of the tube in one direction relative to the bolt.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 19, wherein said bolt has a head, which head locks against at least one end of said tube, to prevent axial expansion of said tube.

24. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 23, wherein said head is adapted to engage at least one protrusions extending from said tube toward said bolt head.

25. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 23, wherein said head comprises at least one protrusions extending from said head toward said tube, to engage said tube.

26. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 23, wherein said head comprises a flange, flared to have an outer diameter greater than an inner diameter of said tube.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 19, wherein said bolt is adapted to engage a pole element for holding said bolt during deployment of said spacer.

28. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 27, wherein said bolt has an inner thread for engaging said pole element.

29. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 27, wherein said bolt mechanically engages said pole element as long as a head of said bolt is constrained by said tube.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer comprises a plurality of segments, each segment defining one or more extensions that extend from said spacer.

31. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 30, wherein said segments comprises at least two segment types, each segment type defining extensions that extend in different directions relative to said tube.

32. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 31, wherein said two segment types comprises a horizontal segment defining two extensions that extend along a line and a segment defining four extensions that extend at about ±45° to said two extensions.

33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein an extension direction of at least one of said at least two extensions is normal to said tube.

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein an extension direction of at least one of said at least two extensions defines a sharp angle with said tube axis, in a plane containing said tube axis.

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least two extensions does not extend along a direction perpendicular to said tube.

36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least two extensions has, in a plane containing said tube axis, a profile of a triangle, with a triangle tip pointed away from said tube.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least two extensions has, in a plane containing said tube axis, a curved profile.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least two extensions has, in a plane containing said tube axis, a profile that narrows and then widens, along a direction away from the tube.

39. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least two extensions has, in a plane perpendicular to said tube axis, a profile that narrows, along a direction away from the tube.

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least two extensions has, in a plane perpendicular to said tube axis, a profile that narrows and then widens, along a direction away from the tube.

41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least two extensions has, in a plane perpendicular to said tube axis, a uniform profile.

42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least two extensions has, a pointed top profile.

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least two extensions has, a top profile substantially the same size as a base of said extension.

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least two extensions has, a top profile substantially larger than a base of said extension.

45. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said extensions are unevenly distributed along said axis.

46. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said extensions are evenly distributed along said axis.

47. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said extensions are unevenly distributed along a circumference of said tube.

48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said extensions are evenly distributed along a circumference of said tube.

49. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said different ones of said extensions have different geometries.

50. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said extensions are distributed in a spiral pattern.

51. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said tube axis is coaxial with an axis of said expanded geometry.

52. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said tube axis is parallel to an axis of said expanded geometry.

53. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said tube axis is not-parallel to an axis of said expanded geometry.

54. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 53, wherein said tube axis and said expanded geometry axis are designed for oblique insertion of a spacer to be aligned, in its expanded state with vertebra.

55. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer has an expanded geometry cross-section of a circle.

56. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer has an expanded geometry trans-axial cross-section of a rectangle.

57. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein a cross-section of said expanded geometry varies along an axis of said expanded geometry.

58. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein a trans-axial cross-section diameter of said expanded geometry varies along an axis of said expanded geometry.

59. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 58, wherein said cross-section is rectangular and wherein said cross-sectional diameter increases along said expanded geometry axis.

60. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein a cross-section diameter of said tube varies along an axis of said tube.

61. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein a cross-section of said tube varies along an axis of said tube.

62. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said tube has a circular cross-section.

63. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said tube has an elliptical cross-section.

64. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said tube has a rectangular trans-axial cross-section.

65. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said tube axis is bent, when the spacer is unexpanded.

66. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said tube axis is straight when the spacer is unexpanded.

67. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said tube axis is bent when the spacer is expanded.

68. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said tube axis is straight when the spacer is expanded.

69. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, comprising a ratchet mechanism to maintain said spacer in an expanded configuration.

70. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, comprising at least one portion of said spacer that prevents axial contraction of said spacer.

71. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 70, wherein said at least one portion comprises a pair of tabs that abut when the spacer is axially contracted.

72. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 70, wherein said at least one portion comprises a strip that folds and forms a thickness between two opposing sides of said spacer, preventing the opposing sides from meeting.

73. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, comprising at least one protrusion on at least one of said extensions, to prevent collapsing of said extension.

74. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, comprising at least one protrusion on at least one of said extensions, to interlock said two extensions.

75. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, comprising at least one interconnecting element for interconnecting said extensions when the extensions are expanded.

76. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 75, wherein said interconnecting element comprises a flexible wire.

77. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 75, wherein said interconnecting element comprises a substantially rigid strut.

78. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said extensions comprises only bending joints.

79. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said extensions comprises at least one twisting joint.

80. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said extensions comprises a lift-up-extension in which a significant axial section of the tube is lifted away from said tube to form said expanded geometry.

81. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said extensions comprises at least two legs that are coupled by an extension top.

82. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said extensions comprises at least three legs that are coupled by a extension top.

83. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said extensions comprises at least four legs that are coupled by a extension top.

84. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said extensions comprises at least two legs, which legs are aligned with the tube axis.

85. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of annealed locations are provided on said spacer to assist in expansion of said spacer.

86. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of etched locations are provided on said spacer to assist in expansion of said spacer.

87. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of holes are provided on said spacer to assist in expansion of said spacer.

88. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 87, wherein said holes distribute stress in said spacer.

89. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer is annealed as a unit.

90. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer comprises means for changing the axial length of the spacer over time, after the spacer is implanted.

91. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer is formed of metal.

92. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer is formed of plastic.

93. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer is formed of a combination of distinct zones of different materials.

94. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer comprises an elastic material, which is elastically deformed by the extension deformation.

95. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer comprises a plastic material, which is plastically deformed by the extension deformation.

96. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer comprises a super-elastic material, which is super-elastically deformed by the extension deformation.

97. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer comprises a shape-memory material.

98. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer is adapted to be axially deformed under axial pressures of over 20 Kg.

99. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer is adapted to be axially deformed under axial pressures of over 30 Kg.

100. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer is adapted to be axially deformed under axial pressures of over 50 Kg.

101. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer is adapted to be axially deformed under axial pressures of over 70 Kg.

102. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer is adapted to be axially deformed under axial pressures of over 90 Kg.

103. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer is adapted to remain expanded in a vertebra of an active human, when placed with the tube axis perpendicular to a spine of said human.

104. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said tube has a cross-sectional diameter smaller than half the maximal cross-sectional diameter of said expanded geometry.

105. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said tube has a cross-sectional diameter smaller than a quarter of the maximal cross-sectional diameter of said expanded geometry.

106. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said expanded geometry is sized to fit between two human vertebrae.

107-109. (cancelled)

110. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said expanded geometry covers at least 40% of the surface of a target vertebra, previously contacting a disc.

111. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said expanded geometry covers at least 60% of the surface of a target vertebra, previously contacting a disc.

112. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said expanded geometry covers at least 80% of the surface of a target vertebra, previously contacting a disc.

113-115. (cancelled)

116. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer is coated with a bio-active coating.

117. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 116, wherein said bio-active coating retards bone ingrowth.

118. (ORIGINAL) A spacer according to claim 116, wherein said bio-active coating promotes bone ingrowth.

119. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said extensions comprises spikes.

120. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the extensions is designed to carry greater stress and has an increased strength over another extension.

121. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer has an angular orientation.

122. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least two of said at least two extensions are designated to hold apart two vertebra.

123. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said spacer is lordotic.

124. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said extensions is adapted to embed in vertebral bone.

125. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An expandable spacer, comprising:

an axial tube having a surface, a proximal end, a distal end and a length;

wherein, said surface defines a plurality of axially displaced slits, said plurality of slits defining at least two ~~axially displaced~~ extensions, such that when said tube is axially compressed, said extensions extend out of said surface and define a geometry of an expanded spacer; and

wherein said spacer is adapted to withstand without collapsing, in a radially expanded configuration thereof, spinal forces applied in a direction radial to the spacer

wherein when the tube is axially compressed, the at least two extensions have respective peaks farthest radially from the tube, the peaks of the extensions being separated from each other along the tube axis.

126-147. (cancelled)

148. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 1, wherein said at least two axially displaced extensions comprises at least three displaced extensions, which three extensions extend in a same transaxial direction from said tube.

149. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A spacer according to claim 125, wherein said at least two axially displaced extensions comprises at least three axially displaced extensions, which three extensions extend in a same transaxial direction from said tube.

150. (NEW) Instrumentation for treatment of the spine, comprising:
an elongate member extending along a longitudinal axis and including a deformable distal end portion having an initial configuration for placement adjacent a spinal structure and a deformed configuration defining at least one transverse projection for transverse displacement of at least a portion of the spinal structure, each of said at least one transverse projection disposed along a single transverse axis such that said transverse displacement of the spinal structure is uniaxial.

151. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 150, wherein said transverse displacement of the spinal structure is directionally-controlled.

152. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 150, wherein said transverse displacement of the spinal structure is unidirectional.

153. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 150, wherein said deformed configuration defines a plurality of said transverse projections.

154. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 153, wherein said deformed configuration defines a pair of said transverse projections disposed generally opposite one another.

155. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 150, wherein said deformed configuration results from a mechanically induced force.

156. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 155, wherein said deformable distal end portion

comprises a first member and a second member engaged with said first member; and wherein said second member is reformed from said initial configuration toward said deformed configuration by relative displacement between said first and second members.

157. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 156, wherein said relative displacement between said first member and said second member is relative linear displacement.

158. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 156, further comprising an actuator mechanism operably coupled to said first and second members to impart said relative displacement therebetween.

159. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 150, wherein said deformable distal end portion is at least partially formed of a relatively flexible material.

160. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 159, wherein said deformable distal end portion is at least partially formed of a relatively elastic material.

161. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 160, wherein said relatively elastic material is a shape-memory material.

162. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 160, wherein said deformable distal end portion is reformed from said initial configuration toward said deformed configuration in response to the imposition of stress, and is reformed toward said initial configuration upon removal of said stress.

163. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 150, wherein said transverse displacement comprises intrabody distraction of a vertebral body.

164. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 163, wherein said intrabody distraction comprises compaction of cancellous bone to form a cavity within the vertebral body.

165. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 163, wherein said intrabody distraction comprises at least partial reduction of a compression fracture in the vertebral body.

166. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 150, wherein said transverse displacement comprises interbody distraction of a vertebral body.

167. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 150, wherein said initial configuration is sized to pass through an access opening in the spinal structure having a diameter within a range of about 1 millimeter to about 5 millimeters; and
wherein said deformed configuration is sized to transversely displace the spinal structure within a range of about 3 millimeters to about 15 millimeters.

168. (NEW) Instrumentation for treatment of the spine, comprising:
a first member;
a second member having a distal end portion engaged with said first member, said distal end portion having an initial configuration for placement adjacent a spinal structure and an expanded configuration for displacement of at least a portion of the spinal structure; and
wherein relative displacement between said first and second members causes said distal end portion to reform from said initial configuration toward said expanded configuration, said expanded configuration defining at least one transverse projection, each of said at least one transverse projection disposed along a single transverse axis such that said displacement of the spinal structure is uniaxial.

169. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 168, further comprising an actuator mechanism coupled between said first and second members and being operable to impart said relative displacement therebetween.

170. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 169, wherein said actuator mechanism is operable to reform said distal end portion of said second member from said expanded configuration back toward said initial configuration.

171. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 169, wherein said actuator mechanism comprises:
a first portion coupled to said first member; and
a second portion coupled to said second member and engaged with said first portion; and
wherein relative rotation between said first and second portions imparts relative linear displacement between said first and second members to cause said distal end portion to reform

from said initial configuration toward said expanded configuration.

172. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 171, wherein said first portion of said actuator mechanism comprises a T-handle.

173. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 168, wherein said distal end portion of said second member is at least partially formed of a relatively elastic material to facilitate reformation from said initial configuration to said expanded configuration and back toward said initial configuration.

174. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 168, wherein said at least one transverse projection comprises an outward deformation.

175. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 174, wherein said distal end portion of said second member includes a pair of said outward deformations positioned generally opposite one another when in said expanded configuration.

176. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 168, wherein said distal end portion of said second member comprises at least one flexible strip of material, said flexible strip of material buckling outwardly in response to said relative displacement between said first and second members to form said at least one transverse projection.

177. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 176, wherein outward buckling of said flexible strip of material occurs in a predetermined direction.

178. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 176, wherein said distal end portion of said second member comprises a pair of said flexible strips of material disposed generally opposite one another, said flexible strips of material buckling outwardly in response to said relative displacement between said first and second members to form a pair of said at least one transverse projections disposed generally opposite one another.

179. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 176, wherein said flexible strip of material has a predetermined shape to provide controlled outward buckling.

180. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 168, wherein said distal end portion of said second member defines a plurality of slots, said slots facilitating outward buckling of said distal end portion in response to said relative displacement between said first and second members.

181. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 180, wherein each of said plurality of slots has a predetermined shape to provide controlled outward buckling.

182. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 168, wherein said distal end portion of said second member comprises a plurality of elements flexibly interconnected in series to form a reformable structure, said reformable structure being collapsible to define said initial configuration and expandable to define said expanded configuration.

183. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 182, wherein said plurality of elements are elastically interconnected.

184. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 182, wherein said distal end portion has a substantially rectangular-shaped profile when in said initial configuration and a substantially triangular-shaped profile when in said expanded configuration.

185. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 182, wherein said plurality of elements are disposed in a substantially uniform orientation when in said initial configuration, and wherein at least some of said plurality of elements are disposed in a non-uniform orientation when in said expanded configuration.

186. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 182, wherein said plurality of elements are integrally formed to define a single-piece reformable structure.

187. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 182, wherein said second member includes a sleeve portion, said plurality of elements being coupled to said sleeve portion; and
wherein said second member is displaceable through said sleeve portion and engages at least one of said plurality of elements to transition said plurality of elements between said initial configuration and said expanded configuration.

188. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 182, wherein an adjacent pair of said plurality of elements cooperates to define a laterally extending protrusion when in said expanded configuration.

189. (NEW) The instrumentation of claim 168, wherein reformation between said initial configuration and said expanded configuration is directionally-controlled.

190. (NEW) Instrumentation for treatment of the spine, comprising:
a first member;
a second member having a distal end portion engaged with said first member, said distal end portion having an initial configuration for placement adjacent a spinal structure and an expanded configuration for displacement of at least a portion of the spinal structure; and
wherein relative displacement between said first and second members causes said distal end portion to reform from said initial configuration toward said expanded configuration; and
wherein said distal end portion of said second member comprises at least one flexible strip of material, said flexible strip of material buckling outwardly in response to said relative displacement between said first and second members to form said expanded configuration, said flexible strip of material having a predetermined shape to provide controlled outward buckling, said predetermined shape including a series of arcuate portions.

191. (NEW) Instrumentation for treatment of the spine, comprising:
a first member;
a second member having a distal end portion engaged with said first member, said distal end portion having an initial configuration for placement adjacent a spinal structure and an expanded configuration for displacement of at least a portion of the spinal structure; and
wherein relative displacement between said first and second members causes said distal end portion to reform from said initial configuration toward said expanded configuration; and
wherein said distal end portion of said second member defines a plurality of slots, said slots facilitating outward buckling of said distal end portion in response to said relative displacement between said first and second members, each of said plurality of slots has a predetermined shape to provide controlled outward buckling, said predetermined shape being at least partially comprised of an hour-glass shape.

192. (NEW) Instrumentation for treatment of the spine, comprising:
a member including a deformable distal end portion having an initial configuration for positioning adjacent a spinal structure and a deformed configuration for displacing the spinal structure; and
means for mechanically deforming said distal end portion from said initial configuration toward said deformed configuration to displace at least a portion of the spinal structure in at least one predetermined direction.

193. (NEW) A method for treatment of the spine, comprising:
providing an instrument including a distal end portion, the distal end portion having an insertion configuration and a deformed configuration;
positioning the distal end portion adjacent a spinal structure while in the insertion configuration; and
deforming the distal end portion toward the deformed configuration to displace at least a portion of the spinal structure, wherein the deforming is directionally controlled.

194. (NEW) The method of claim 193, further comprising:
deforming the distal end portion back toward the insertion configuration; and
removing the distal end portion from the spinal structure.

195. (NEW) The method of claim 193, wherein the deforming occurs in response to the imposition of a mechanically induced force.

196. (NEW) A method for treatment of the spine, comprising:
providing an instrument including a distal end portion, the distal end portion having an insertion configuration and a deformed configuration and comprising a first member and a second member engaged with the first member; and
positioning the distal end portion adjacent a spinal structure while in the insertion configuration; and
deforming the distal end portion toward the deformed configuration to displace at least a portion of the spinal structure, wherein the deforming occurs in response to relative displacement between the first member and the second member to outwardly deform at least a portion of the second member to form at least one laterally extending projection.

197. (NEW) The method of claim 196, wherein the relative displacement comprises linear displacement of the first member relative to the second member.

198. (NEW) The method of claim 193, wherein the positioning comprises inserting the distal end portion through an outer wall of a vertebral body; and wherein displacement of the at least a portion of the spinal structure comprises compacting bone to a cavity within the vertebral body.

199. (NEW) The method of claim 193, further comprising:
inserting a cannula having a working channel through the skin and tissue of a patient;
positioning a distal end of the cannula adjacent the vertebral body; and
inserting the distal end portion of the instrument through the working channel to access the vertebral body.

200. (NEW) The method of claim 199, further comprising:
inserting a viewing element into the working channel of the cannula to provide visualization of the vertebral body.

201. (NEW) Instrumentation for treatment of the spine, comprising:
an elongate member extending along a longitudinal axis and including a deformable distal end portion having an initial configuration for placement adjacent a spinal structure and a deformed configuration defining at least one transverse projection for transverse displacement of at least a portion of the spinal structure.

202. (NEW) Instrumentation for treatment of the spine, comprising:
a first member;
a second member having a distal end portion engaged with said first member, said distal end portion having an initial configuration for placement adjacent a spinal structure and an expanded configuration for displacement of at least a portion of the spinal structure; and
wherein relative displacement between said first and second members causes said distal end portion to reform from said initial configuration toward said expanded configuration.

203. (NEW) Instrumentation for treatment of the spine, comprising:

a member including a deformable distal end portion having an initial configuration for positioning adjacent a spinal structure and a deformed configuration for displacing the spinal structure; and means for mechanically deforming said distal end portion from said initial configuration toward said deformed configuration to displace at least a portion of the spinal structure in at least one predetermined direction.

204. (NEW) A method for treatment of the spine, comprising:
providing an instrument including a distal end portion, the distal end portion having an insertion configuration and a deformed configuration;
positioning the distal end portion adjacent a spinal structure while in the insertion configuration; and
deforming the distal end portion toward the deformed configuration to displace at least a portion of the spinal structure.

205. (NEW) Instrumentation for treatment of the spine, comprising: an elongate member extending along a longitudinal axis and including a deformable distal end portion having an initial configuration for placement adjacent a spinal structure and a deformed configuration defining at least one transverse projection for transverse displacement of at least a portion of the spinal structure.

206. (NEW) Instrumentation for treatment of the spine, comprising: a first member; a second member having a distal end portion engaged with said first member, said distal end portion having an initial configuration for placement adjacent a spinal structure and an expanded configuration for displacement of at least a portion of the spinal structure; and wherein relative displacement between said first and second members causes said distal end portion to reform from said initial configuration toward said expanded configuration.

207. (NEW) Instrumentation for treatment of the spine, comprising: a member including a deformable distal end portion having an initial configuration for positioning adjacent a spinal structure and a deformed configuration for displacing the spinal structure; and means for mechanically deforming said distal end portion from said initial configuration toward said deformed configuration to displace at least a portion of the spinal structure in at least one predetermined direction.

208. (NEW) A method for treatment of the spine, comprising: providing an instrument including a distal end portion, the distal end portion having an insertion configuration and a deformed configuration; positioning the distal end portion adjacent a spinal structure while in the insertion configuration; and deforming the distal end portion toward the deformed configuration to displace at least a portion of the spinal structure.